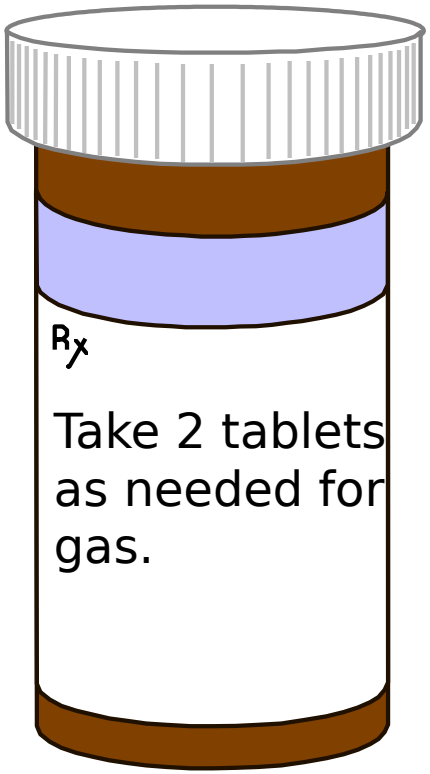
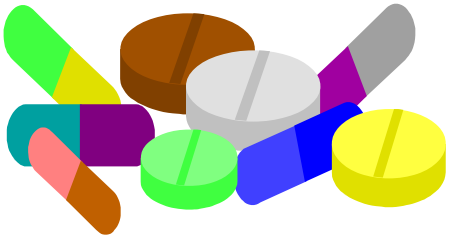
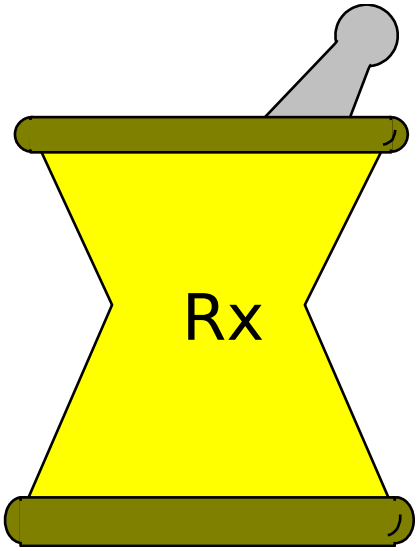
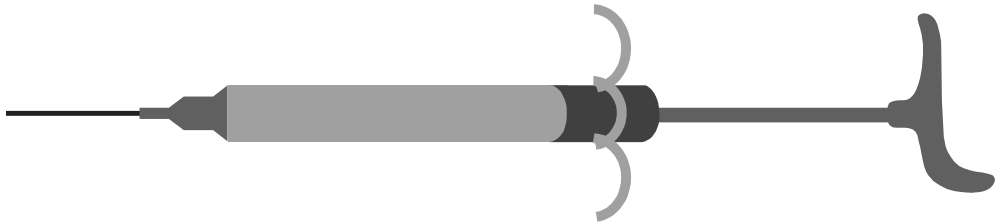
GENERAL PHARMACOLOGY



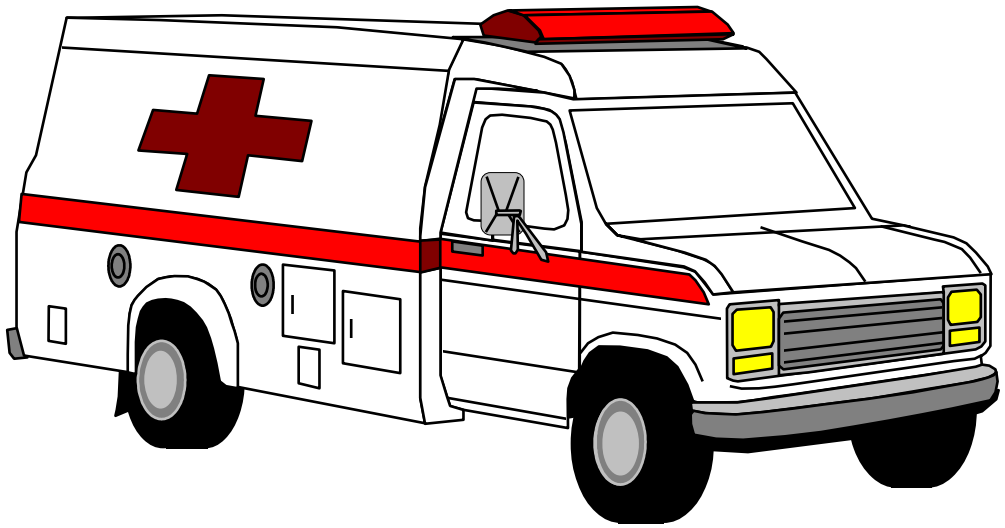






OBJECTIVE

- **Discuss the importance of medications and the dangers associated with their administration**

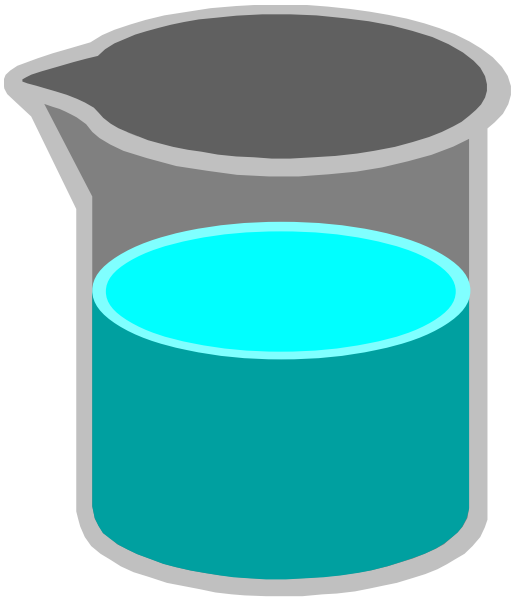


OVERVIEW

- Medications
  - On EMS unit or carried by patient
- Medication names
- Indications / Containdications
- Forms of medicaitons
- Key terms
- Re-assessment strategies

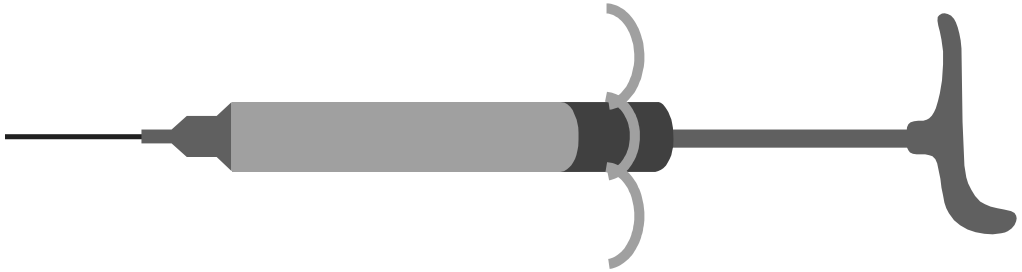
Medications (Carried on EMS Unit)

- Activated Charcoal
- Oral Glucose
- Oxygen



Medications
(In patient's possession)

- Prescribed Inhaler
- Nitroglycerin
- Epinephrine



Medication Names

- Generic
  - The name listed in the U.S. Pharmacopedia, a governmental publication listing all drugs in the U.S.
  - Name assigned to a drug before it becomes officially listed. Usually a simple form of the chemical name

Medication Names

- Examples of Generic Names
  - Acetaminophen
  - Ibuprofen
  - Epinephrine

Trade Names

- Brand name is the name a manufacturer uses in marketing the drug
- Examples
  - Tylenol
  - Motrin
  - Adrenalin

Indications

- **The indication for a drug's use includes the most common uses of the drug in treating a specific illness**

Contraindications

- Situations in which a drug should not be used because it may cause harm to the patient
- It may offer no effect in improving the patient's condition or illness

Medication Form

- Medication that the EMT-Basic carries on the unit
- Medications that a patient may have a prescription for that the EMT-B may assist with administration

Medication Form

- Compressed powders or tablets - Nitro
- Liquids for injection - Epinephrine
- Gels - Glucose
- Suspensions - Activated Cha

Medication Form

- Fine powders for inhalation - Prescribed Inhaler
- Gases - Oxygen
- Sub-lingual spray - Nitroglycerin
- Liquid/vaporized fixed dose nebulizers

Medication Form

- Each drug is in a specific medication form to allow properly controlled concentrations of the drug to enter the blood stream
- This is where it has an effect on the target body system

Key Terms

Dose

- How much of the drug should be given

Administration

- Route by which the medication is administered
  - Oral
  - Sub-lingual
  - Injectable
  - Intramuscular

Actions

- Desired effects a drug has on the patients and / or their body systems

Side Effects

- Any action of a drug other than those desired
  - Some side effects may be predictable

And what is the last thing we ALWAYS do?

Re-assessment Strategies

- Repeat baseline vital signs
- Done as part of an on-going assessment
- Documentation of response to intervention

SUMMARY

- Medication
  - Carried on the unit
  - Carried by the patient
- Medication names
- Indications
- Contraindications

SUMMARY

- Medication forms
- Key term
  - Dose
  - Actions
  - Side effects s
- Reassessment strategies